

REMARKS

The following is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated July 16, 2007, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on October 16, 2007. Claims 1-20 were examined. The Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kilgariff et al. (US Patent 6,850,243). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Rejections Under 35 USC § 102(e)

Claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of dependent claims 3 and 4. Claim 10 is amended to include the limitation of dependent claim 14. Claims 3, 4, and 14 are original claims and therefore have already been examined. Consequently, these amendments do not raise any new issues for prosecution. As amended, claims 1 and 10 each recite the limitation of clamping the biased ratio value to a number less than or equal to one. The cited reference simply doesn't teach or suggest such a limitation.

Kilgariff teaches that the ratio value (AniRatio) can be clamped to a value greater than or equal to one. As clearly stated in column 21, line 1 of the reference, the ratio value is between one and sixteen or more. Additionally, in column 32, line 21 Kilgariff states that the "AniRatio is a fixed point number between 1.0 and 16.0." Kilgariff does not teach or suggest that the ratio value (or a biased ratio value) can be changed to a number less than or equal to one, as recited in amended claims 1 and 10. In fact, one skilled in the art would not expect Kilgariff to include such a teaching since when the ratio is equal to or less than one bilinear filtering using a single sample is performed, rather than anisotropic filtering. Kilgariff teaches using bilinear filtering when the ratio is equal to one in column 31, lines 43-49.

Furthermore, claims 1 and 10 recite the limitation of applying a bias to the ratio value to produce a biased ratio value. The biased ratio value is used to determine a number of texture samples for anisotropic texture map filtering. Kilgariff also fails to teach or suggest these limitations.

Kilgariff teaches determining a number of texture samples (AniSteps) for anisotropic texture map filtering using a ratio value (AniRatio) that is not a biased ratio

value. Nowhere does Kilgariff teach applying a bias to the ratio value. In particular, the computation of the ratio value is described in column 20, line 53 through column 21, line 4 as L/W , where L is the length of the anisotropic area, and W is the width of the anisotropic area, as illustrated in Figure 31. Nowhere does Kilgariff teach that a bias is applied to the ratio value.

The Examiner relies on Figure 31 and column 4 lines 7-14 of Kilgariff for the teaching of applying a bias to the ratio value, asserting that the bias is a parameter illustrated in Figure 31. Again, Figure 31 clearly illustrates the parameters that are used to compute W and L . None of these parameters is a bias or is applied to the ratio value to produce a biased ratio value. Kilgariff does mention an LOD bias in column 13, line 20 that is used along with the LOD to determine one or more addresses. However, nowhere does Kilgariff describe that the LOD bias value is applied to the ratio value. In fact, Kilgariff is completely silent regarding how the LOD bias is applied.

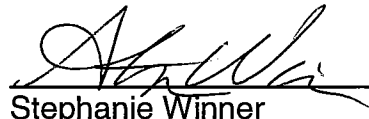
The Examiner also relies on column 29, line 65 through column 30, line 14 for teaching anisotropic filtering and a biased ratio. However, these paragraphs describe nothing more than computing a weight (scalefactor) for each texture sample in order to filter the texture samples. Computing the weight that is used to scale each texture sample does not determine the number of texture samples to filter. The number of texture samples to be filtered is determined using the (unbiased) ratio, as described in column 21, lines 5-10 of Kilgariff. Again, Kilgariff does not teach a biased ratio value and therefore cannot teach using the biased ratio value to determine the number of texture samples to filter.

For these reasons, Applicant submits that amended claims 1 and 10 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of these claims. Since claims 2 and 5-9 depend from allowable claim 1 and claims 11-13 and 15 depend from allowable claim 10, these claims also are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above remarks, Applicants believe that they have overcome all of the objections and rejections set forth in the Final Office Action dated July 16, 2007, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on October 16, 2007, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, please contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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